the said scheme in Andhra Pradesh devastated with cyclone and floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) The number of houses constructed in Andhra Pradesh during the Eighth Plan period is 228608. Targets are fixed yearwise on the basis of budgetary allocation available under Indira Awas Yojana. The target for 1997-98 and 1998-99 (first two years of the IXth Five Year Plan) for Andhra Pradesh under Indira Awas Yojana are 56065 and 73645 respectively.

(b) All funds under Indira Awaas Yojana are distributed to States/UTs as per poverty ratio as approved by the Planning Commission. There is no provision for grant of additional assistance under Indira Awaas Yojana guidelines for construction of houses devastated by cyclone and floods.

Constitution of District Planning Committees

2772. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State which have not yet constituted the District Planning Committees as yet envisaged by the 73rd and 74h constitutional amendments; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure implementation of the institutional amendments by all the States to ensure proper role of Panchayati Raj for various development programmes to uplift the weaker and oppressed sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) The states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territories of Chandighar, Doman & Diu, NCT Delhi, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have not constituted Distict Planning Committees.

(b) Devolution of administrative and financial powers and functions upon the Panchayats to enable them function as institutions of self-government and capacity building of the representatives is a continuing process. The Government has been urging the State Government to speed up the process of devolution of powers and functions at various fora and is monitoring the progress. The Government has also constituted a Task Force under my Chairmanship to study the structure and functioning of Panchayats. This Task Force will also make recommendations to ensure proper role of Panchayats for various development programmes for the poor and to make them more effective in planning and implementation of these programmes.

JRY Innovation programme

2773 SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new programme called "JRY Innovation" was started;

(b) the details of JRY Innovation programme;

(c) the assessment of this scheme;

(d) whether vast amount of funds were sunk in ill-planned schemes; and

(e) what steps are proposed to formulate practical schemes for rural development?